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MARYLAND HISTORICAL SOCIETY

1844-1921

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MONUMENT STREET FRONT OF MARYLAND HISTORICAL SOCIETY BUILDING

MARYLAND HISTORICAL SOCIETY
APPEAL

THE Maryland Historical Society was founded in 1844, and for many years after its organization occupied a most prominent position in the life of the City and State. Now for the first time its priceless records, manuscripts, portraits and other historical articles are housed in a suitable fire-proof building. The indefatigable work of its members, many of them among the most prominent citizens of our State, has preserved invaluable records of the State from oblivion.

None of the officers of the Maryland Historical Society have ever received pay for their services; nevertheless, of late years its activities have been crippled by lack of funds, and in many instances the Society has been unable to acquire valuable records which should have been secured and kept for the citizens of Maryland.

The Society through the generosity of Mrs. H. Irvine Keyser has be-

come the owner of a home which is admirably adapted for the purposes of an active, well equipped historical society. These buildings will in an adequate manner meet permanently the needs of the Society. However, the maintenance of the buildings and other expenses of the Society demand much larger revenues.

Although operating in a most conservative and economical manner in its new home, the Society faces an annual deficit of five or six thousand dollars. In order that the Maryland Historical Society should keep abreast of the times, entering thoroughly into the activities for which it was founded, it is necessary that its income be increased by fifteen thousand dollars a year at least. To secure this an Endowment Fund of three hundred thousand dollars is needed.

Such a revenue would make readily accessible a vast amount of historical data which is not only of interest to the student but of constant value in the determination of practical questions raised in our Courts and elsewhere. In many instances the necessary information can be obtained from no other source.

We ask your generous assistance in the re-establishment of the Maryland Historical Society to its former position in the community and in opening to it fields of usefulness not originally contemplated.

You are cordially invited to visit and inspect the home of the Society, corner of Park Avenue and Monument Street. The buildings are opened, daily, from 9 to 4.30 p. m., at night, 7.30 to 9.30 p. m., and on Sunday, 2 to 5.30 p. m.

Kindly state whether your contribution may be used for maintenance, or whether the income only thereof shall be available for such purpose.

Checks or pledges should be sent to Heyward E. Boyce, Esq., Treasurer. For your convenience a pledge is enclosed.

Yours truly,

Chairman

Baltimore, Md., February 1, 1921

Finance Committee

PARK AVENUE FRONT OF MARYLAND HISTORICAL SOCIETY BUILDINGS

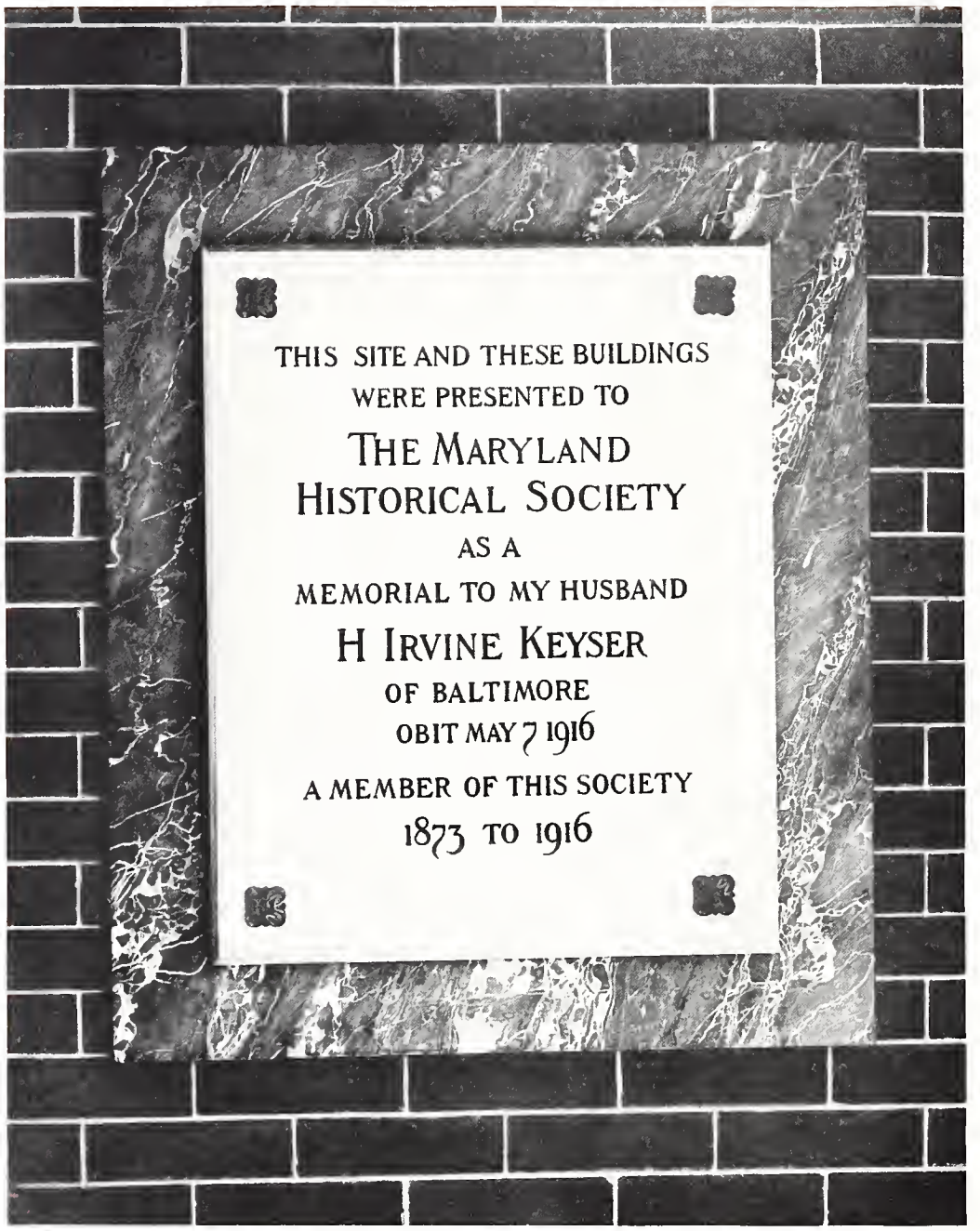
AN HISTORICAL SKETCH

An Interesting Outline of the Origin and History of the Maryland Historical Society, and of Its Great Usefulness to the Community and State, and also of Its Plans and Hopes, contained in a letter of the President of the Society to the Chairman of the Finance Committee

My Dear Sir: In reply to the enquiry of the Finance Committee, I beg to submit the following sketch which may be found of service in connection with the plans of that Committee:

In 1845 a handful of gentlemen in Baltimore, apparently without urging or solicitation, provided a fund of some thirty-five thousand dollars with which they purchased a lot at the northwest corner of St. Paul and Saratoga Streets and erected and furnished, free of debt, a building designed by the architect, R. Carey Long, which was, at that time, one of the handsomest buildings in the City, and was especially well adapted to the needs of the Maryland Historical Society and of the Baltimore Library, organized in 1796. Subsequently, the Library was merged into the Historical Society.

In the seventy-five years which have since elapsed, the Society has been made the beneficiary of Mr. George Peabody in the sum of twenty thousand dollars (the income



Commemorative Tablet in Vestibule on Park Avenue

of one-half of which must be devoted to publication) and of other friends, to the extent of approximately ten thousand dollars more.

By the very generous gift of Mrs. Mary Washington Keyser, as a memorial to her husband, Mr. H. Irvine Keyser, long a member of the Society, it has recently come into the possession of the property at the southwestern corner of Park Avenue and Monument Street, upon which, in addition to the dwelling house already there, Mrs. Keyser has erected, at great cost, a thoroughly modern fire-proof building in which the paintings, books and valuable records of the Society are entirely protected from fire and are rendered readily accessible to the public.

The collections of the Society in books, manuscripts, archives, maps and miscellaneous items, are of immense historical, genealogical and commercial interest and importance. The use of the Society's records and library is constant and is steadily increasing as their value and extent become better known and as it becomes recognized that the collection is the only one of its kind in the State and that it compares more than favorably with like collections in any of the States of the Union.

The broadened operation of the Society and the greatly increased cost of its administration have rendered it necessary that it be provided with additional means of support, as it is now dependent entirely upon income from the small fund above mentioned and the annual dues of its members, which are, and have always been, fixed at five dollars.

The Society owns the property at St. Paul and Saratoga Streets, which is now under lease to the State of Maryland at a rental which, after deducting the very heavy cost of heating, janitor service, overhead expense and taxes, including repayment of amount borrowed to render the building available for this tenant, leaves but a very small margin of net income.

The Society is, by law, the Custodian for the State, of its Colonial and early State Archives and has, under a small State appropriation, published thirty-nine volumes of its Archives, a series not exceeded in value by similar publications of any State.

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Specimens of Early Maryland Coinage
Struck in Baltimore 1783

1. Standish Barry Six-pence
2 and 3. Standish Barry Three-pence (enlarged)

Cæcilius Calvert Medal (1632)

Lord Baltimore Shilling
(Enlarged)

Among the Society's possessions are many original documents, maps, etc., some of which exist only in this collection, and their value to business interests of the State has been made manifest upon frequent occasions for the determination of boundaries, of riparian rights, etc. The records of the Society have also proved of inestimable value in genealogical and historical research.

When the matter of compilation of the records of the Maryland men in the World War was under consideration, the Federal Government suggested that if the Governor of Maryland, the Chairman of the Maryland Council of Defense, and the President of the Maryland Historical Society, acting as a Committee of Three, would outline a plan for the compilation and preservation of these War records, such Committee would be

Obverse of
Maryland Medal (Silver) of 1632
Profile Bust of
Cæcilius Calvert

Coat of Arms Granted Sir George Calvert,
First Lord Baltimore, December 3, 1622

Reverse of
Maryland Medal (Silver) of 1632
Map of Province
of Maryland

recognized by the Government as its official organ in the matter, and all information at the disposal of the Government would be placed at the command of such Committee. This work is now in progress and when completed it will form a record the value of which can scarcely be over-estimated.

The Society has in its possession much matter of value and interest which it is unable, for lack of funds, to publish or to render accessible for use of the public.

It has become recognized as the appropriate depository of portraits, archives and objects of special interest connected with the history of the State and City and its museum contains an ever-increasing collection of such items, the value of which grows with the passage of years.

Were funds available for editing and publishing some of the collections of letters and documents which have been presented to the Society, there would be made public much matter of historic interest and value, access to which must otherwise remain unattainable.

The income of the Society not only prevents it from securing a sufficient force efficiently to operate, but compels it to shorten the hours during which its buildings are open and to fix its salary list upon a scale inadequate to meet either the merit or the service of its limited force.

At an early date the Society began to publish the more notable papers read at its meetings in the series widely and favorably known as the "Fund Publications," the cost being defrayed from the income of one-half of the gift from Mr. Peabody. In this series appeared the remarkable publications of the Calvert Papers, which were formerly the property of the Lord Proprietary, but which were purchased by friends of the Society and presented to it.

The Maryland Historical Magazine succeeded the "Fund Publications" and is now

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1
Bomb thrown from
British Fleet
into
Fort McHenry,
September 12,
1814

2
Crown Stone
Mason & Dixon
Boundry
Line

2

in its fourteenth volume. It stands high among magazines of its character and is widely distributed among the historical libraries of the English-speaking world.

In 1845 the population of the City of Baltimore was approximately 135,000, and its estimated wealth (taxable basis) about $55,640.00.

Today the population is over 733,800 and the estimated wealth (upon the same basis) is $1,086,349,952.00.

If a few gentlemen, seventy-five years ago, could voluntarily build and furnish a home for the valuable Institution they then created; if recently one generous lady could present that Organization with the splendid property it now occupies, can it be doubted that the public-spirited citizens of the Greater Baltimore of today need but to be advised of the Society's necessities to afford it means not only to maintain its usefulness, but very greatly to enlarge its scope and to avail of its unprecedented opportunities?

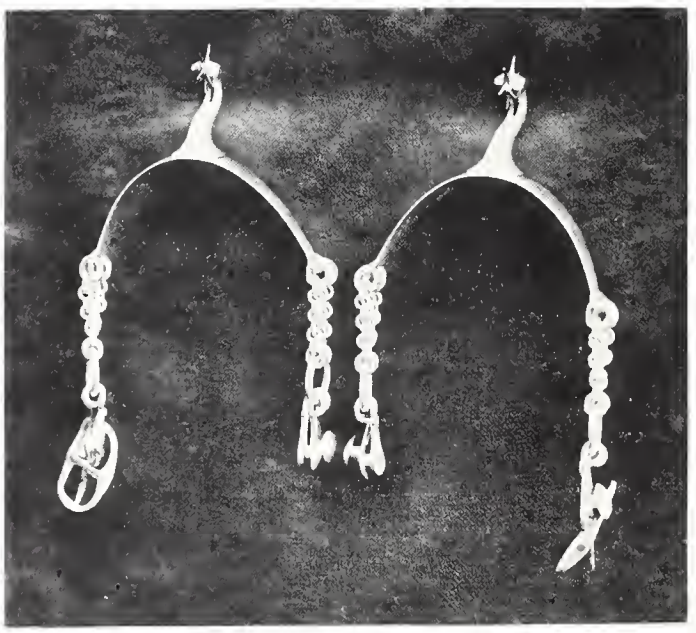
And this when the alternative must inevitably be the continuance of the Society with a bare existence,—with opportunities neglected,—with valuable historical material lying unused in its vaults,—and with its creditable work through long years unrecognized and unencouraged by State, City or Community.

In 1845 the Maryland Historical Society was an experiment—a hope; in 1920 it is an actual realization. It has proved its worth. It has, despite its meagre resources, demonstrated its value as an asset to both the City and the State. It is entitled to the support of the community of which it is a part and of whose Citizens it is composed.

Yours very truly,

Baltimore, January 25, 1921

W. Hall Harris, *President.*



Pair of Spurs Worn by
Lieutenant-Colonel Tench Tilghman
(1744–1786)

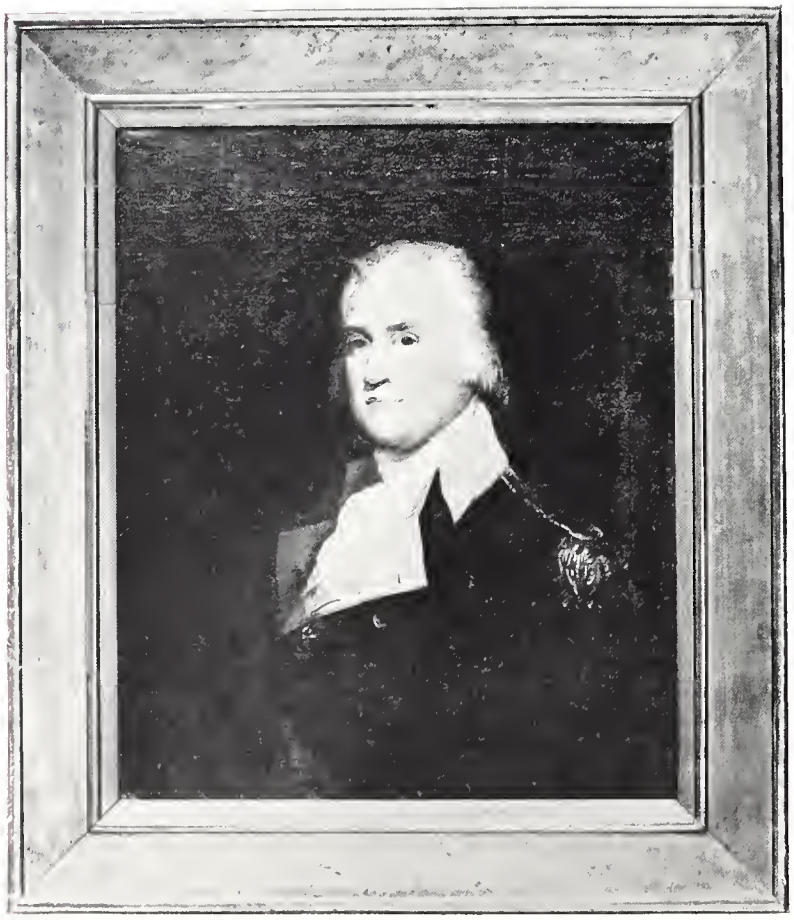
THE LIBRARY, LOOKING EAST

THE LIBRARY

The Library contains approximately thirty thousand volumes, consisting of American and European History, rare Americana, local imprints and the works of local writers. The files of periodicals are of unusual value and rarity, including practically complete "runs" of the current city newspapers from the beginning; and remarkable sets of others which have long since ceased publication. The collection of literary publications, the majority of which were short-lived, is nearly complete. Among the book rarities are the Eliot Indian Bible and Audubon's Birds of America in elephant folio, colored by the author himself. The collection of early maps is good and some of these have been requisitioned by the courts for the settlement of important litigations, such as that concerning the B. & O. R. R. bridge over the Susquehanna River. The genealogical collection is perhaps the most in demand.

The most valuable of the possessions of the Society are its manuscripts. Of these may be mentioned the Calvert papers, comprising more than a thousand pieces; the Executive Archives, consisting of ten large cases of papers from the Executive department, covering the period from 1765 to 1867; the State Archives, contained in many bound volumes and now, in part, published as the "Archives of Maryland;" the Carroll papers, consisting of more than eight hundred letters to and from Charles Carroll of Carrollton, and a trunk

VIEW OF THE GALLERY, LOOKING WEST



Major General, Maryland Line, Samuel Smith, (1752-1839)

full of deeds, letters and papers relating to the iron works in which Mr. Carroll and others were interested; the Otho Holland Williams collection, which contains upwards of two thousand important Revolutionary letters; and many other smaller collections. In short, it is one of the most important manuscript collections in this country.

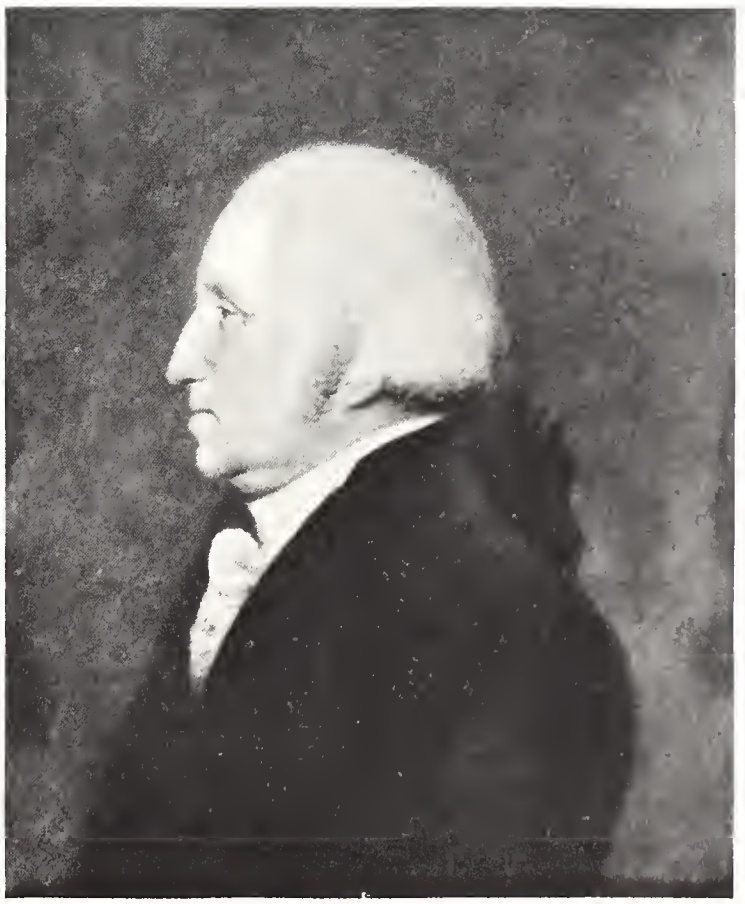
Publications

The Society has published about sixty-five pamphlets, dated from 1844 to 1902, consisting of addresses delivered before the Society, catalogues of paintings, etc., and special reports. From the Peabody Fund, thirty-nine

VIEW OF THE GALLERY, LOOKING NORTH

publications have been issued, the first dated 1867. The series was suspended or discontinued after the establishment of the Maryland Historical Magazine, the official organ of the Society, which was first issued in 1906 and is now in its fifteenth volume. The Magazine is the only direct point of contact between the Society and *all* of its membership; and through its medium, a wide exchange system is conducted with other historical and learned societies.

The outstanding publication of the Society is the series of Archives of Maryland, for which the State of Maryland appropriates biennially. Thirty-nine volumes have been published since 1883.



GEORGE WASHINGTON, BY SHARPLESS

VIEW OF THE GALLERY, LOOKING SOUTH

THE GALLERY

THE pictures in the Gallery include a fine collection of early American portraits and a number of fine examples by old masters representing most of the foreign schools. The Italian school is particularly well represented.

Among the Colonial portraits of note is the valuable painting by Stuart representing General Washington, probably the last painting of Washington by Stuart. Also an excellent portrait of General Samuel Smith by Stuart and a number of paintings of Revolutionary generals by Charles Wilson Peale. Thomas Sully is represented by several portraits of a later period.

There are also a number of fine portraits by Rembrandt Peale, probably the best examples of his art, and numerous other portraits by American artists.

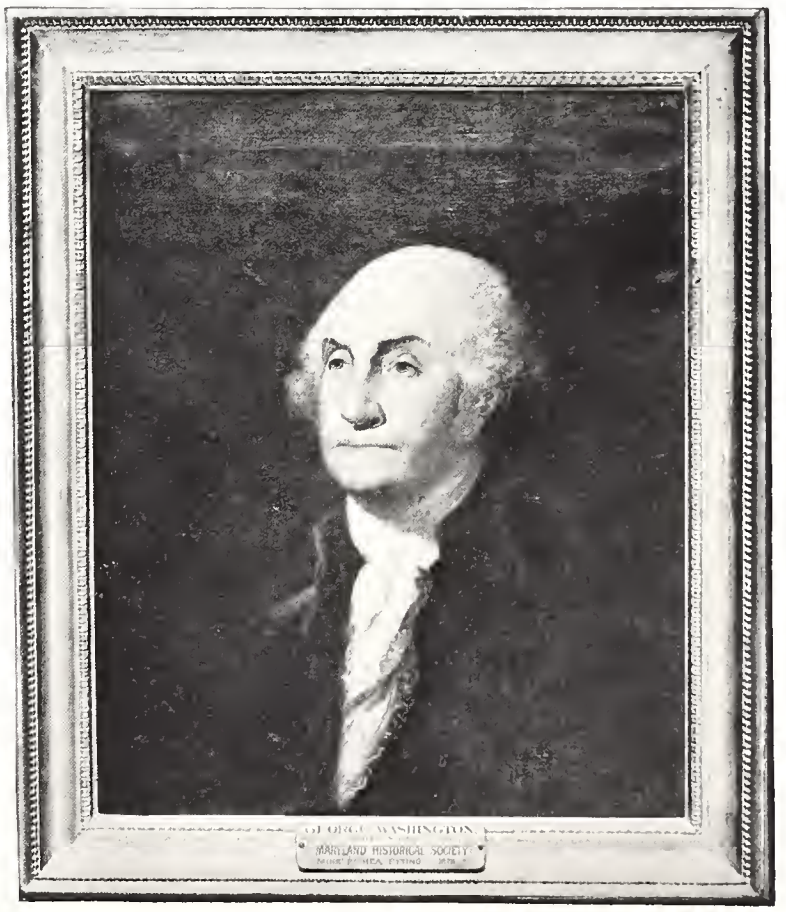
A recent acquisition is a fine portrait of General Washington by Sharpless which is reproduced on the preceding page.

The Hiram Powers bust is shown on this page.

THE EDRIS AND VIRGINIA BERKLEY MEMORIAL COLLECTION OF WASHINGTON PRINTS

WASHINGTONIA

THIS Memorial Collection of Washington Engravings represents the accumulation of many years of exploration into the portraiture of the great President Washington, who has been honored with the work of more artists and engravers than any other great man that has ever lived. It is now the largest collection of engravings in the rooms of any Historical Society and, as examples are becoming rare, will probably remain so. It has been made a Memorial Collection to the mother and father of the donor, Dr. Henry J. Berkley, because the families were neighbors, not only in Westmoreland County, Washington's birthplace, but also in Fairfax County, the General's last residence.



GEORGE WASHINGTON, BY STUART

THE NOEL WYATT ROOM

THE NOEL WYATT COLLECTION

THE articles in this collection, which are given to the Maryland Historical Society by J. B. Noel Wyatt, were all, with few exceptions, contained, about a hundred years ago and afterwards, in the residence located on the present U. S. Post Office site, Fayette Street east of Calvert, owned and occupied until about 1850 by Mrs. Elizabeth Noel Bosley and Mrs. Margaret Noel Wyatt, and subsequently rented and occupied for some years by the then Maryland Club.

Among contents: Suite of rare Empire furniture, large "cheval" glass and other pieces.

Among Portraits: Joseph Hopper Nicholson, Elizabeth Hopper Nicholson, Sarah Nicholson Noel.

Among Miniatures: Joseph Nicholson, Jr., Joseph Hopper Nicholson, Sarah Nicholson Noel, Elizabeth Noel Bosley, Rev. Wm. Edward Wyatt.

Articles of old silver, glass, china, jewelry, lace, India shawls, and embroidery and various small articles in glass cases.

This collection is of interest as an example of contents of a residence in Baltimore of that type and that period.

1. Sword of Lieutenant-Colonel John Eager Howard (1752-1827). 2. Sword Presented by Congress to Lieutenant Tench Tilghman, A. D. C. to General Washington

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VIEW OF RECEIVING ROOM

A MUSEUM OF HISTORIC IMPORTANCE

A COLLECTION of relics connected with the most important events in the history of Maryland from the days of the Colonies to those of the World War will be found in the Museum. Among them may be mentioned a collection of swords, spurs, epaulets, etc., worn by distinguished Maryland Officers in the Revolutionary War, in the War of 1812, in the Mexican War and in the Civil War.

The Eleanor D. Cohen collection embraces a large number of interesting family relics, including miniatures, silverware, etc., and the Society also owns a collection of early colonial silverware. There is a wonderful collection of early coins in which is contained all the Maryland Provincial coinage. Valuable pieces of antique furniture, portraits, etc., are being received and so arranged as to show the manner in which they were originally used.

The Society possesses large and important collections of relics of the Civil War and a room, known as the "Over There Room," is being arranged as a Memorial to those who fell in the World War.

3. RAPIER OF COLONEL TARLETON, SURRENDERED TO LIEUTENANT-COLONEL JOHN EAGER HOWARD AT BATTLE OF COWPENS. 4. SWORD OF CAPTAIN NICHOLAS RUXTON MOORE (1756-1816)

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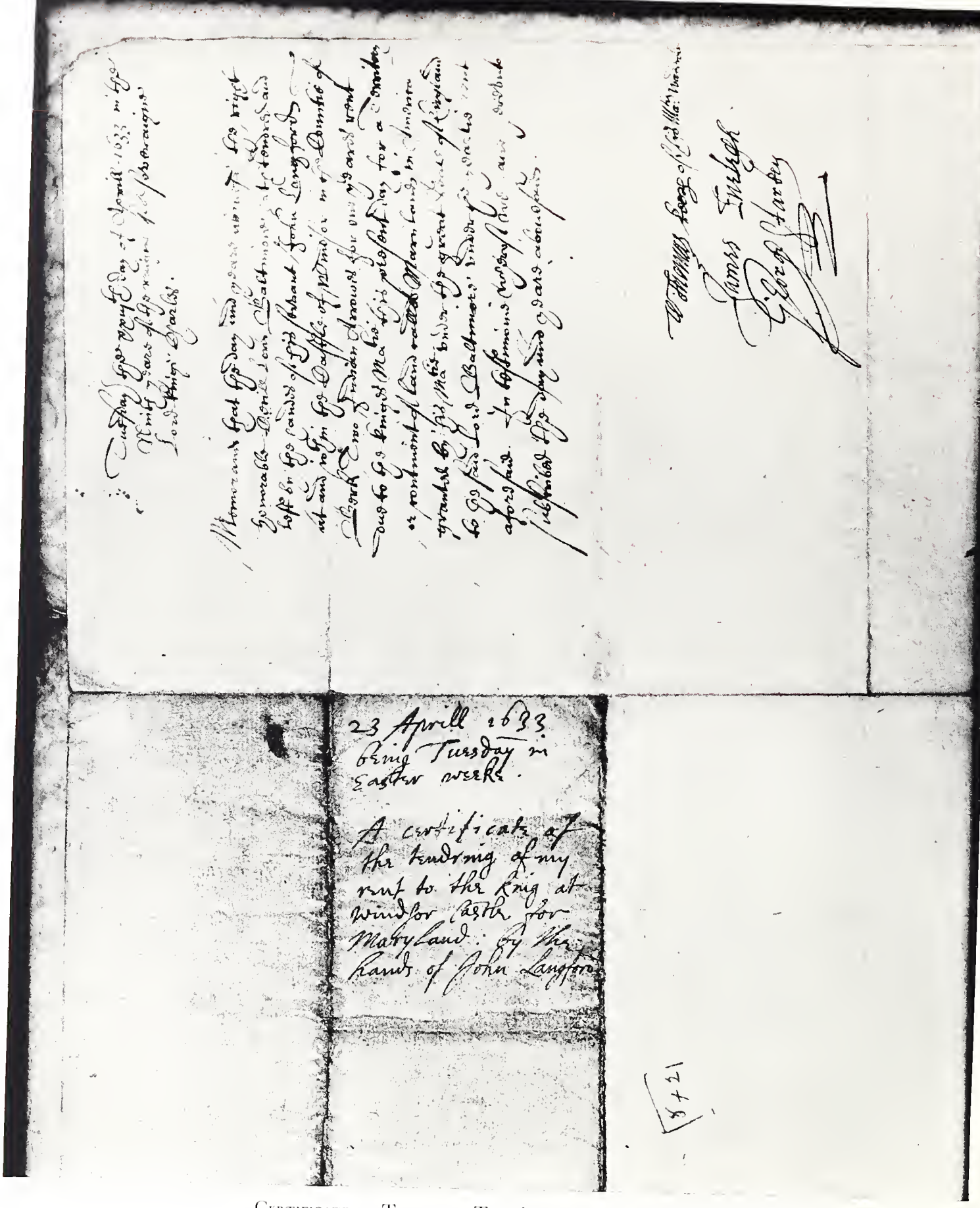

Certificate of Tender of Two Indian Arrows by Lord Baltimore to the King for the First Year's Rent of the Province of Maryland, April 23, 1633

PULASKI BANNER

Take thy banner! May it wave
Proudly o'er the good and brave;
When the battle's distant wail
Breaks the sabbath of our vale,
When the clarion's music thrills
To the hearts of these lone hills,
When the spear in conflict shakes,
And the strong lance, shivering breaks.

Take thy banner! and, beneath
The war-cloud's encircling wreath,
Guard it! till our homes are free!
Guard it! God will prosper thee!
In the dark and trying hour
In the breaking forth of power,
In the rush of steeds and men,
His right hand will shield thee then.

—Henry Wadsworth Longfellow.

HEADQUARTERS OF THE MARYLAND WAR RECORDS COMMISSION

WAR RECORDS COMMISSION

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FOR the purpose of compiling records of Maryland's part in the World War, the Maryland Council of Defense constituted a Historical Division, of which George L. Radcliffe was chairman and Karl Singewald was secretary. The Legislature of 1920, in view of the approaching dissolution of the Council of Defense, created the War Records Commission to continue the work.

The Commission is compiling individual records of Marylanders who served in the military or naval forces, histories of military units composed largely of Marylanders, histories of military establishments in Maryland, and histories of the various non-military activities that contributed towards the winning of the war. In addition to the histories proper, the Commission is collecting all kinds of matter of war interest—publications, posters, photographs, clippings, etc.

The Maryland Historical Society was deeply interested in the undertaking and offered to co-operate in every way possible. One floor of its building is now being utilized by the Commission for the work.

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